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BLISTER RUST CONTROL AS APPLIED TO NURSERIES

By S. B. Detwiler,

Senior Pathologist in Charge

Office of Blister Rust Control

Bureau of Plant Industry

The farmer can grow white pine in woodlots free from blister rust and each year pine owners are eradicating currants and gooseberries on about a million acres of land to protect present and future white pine crops. Like-wise the nurserymen can and should produce white pine stock free from the disease. The way to do this is to grow the white pine stock from seed in an area from which all European black currant bushes are absent within at least a mile radius, and all other currant and gooseberry bushes destroyed within a radius of 1500 feet of the pine seed and transplant beds.

If all nurseries producing white pine adopt this as a standard practice, it will be a sound argument for wider interstate movement of five-leafed pines than is now permitted. In other words, when it is shown that all nurserymen in a state produce healthy white pines, and only healthy ones, part of the object of the quarantine will have been accomplished.

The reason for requiring such separation of the two host plants of the blister rust is that periodic nursery inspection cannot insure freedom of pines from the disease. White pines grown from seed in an area 1500 feet from any current and gooseberry plants, under normal conditions in the Eastern United States, will be free from the rust if there are no European black currents in the region. The width of the protective zone recommended for commercial pine wood lots is less than the 1500 foot zone recommended for white pines in nurseries, for the reason that the loss of an occasional tree does not destroy the value of a woodlot, but a few infected pines in a

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nursery shipment may cause great harm by introducing the rust into diseasefree localities. The nursery stock must be above all suspicion.

No rule can be laid down for the distance which current and gooseberry bushes must be grown from white pines to insure such bushes remaining absolutely free from rust infection. However, current and gooseberry plants are most likely to be infected when diseased pines grow near them. Grow your currents and gooseberries as far from white pines as possible. They should be separated by at least 1500 feet. Diseased pines, if nearby, will cause diseased currents, and diseased currents cannot pass inspection for interstate shipment.

The European black current is extremely susceptible to blister rust.

The Department of Agriculture recognizes it as a distince menace in all States where white pines grow. Field experiments and observations have proved beyond doubt that this type of current is largely responsible for the rapid spread of the rust in this country. Directly or indirectly, it has caused most of the trouble nurserymen have experienced from blister rust infection.

Nurserymen should not continue to propagate European black current plants, nor should this plant be grown in any State where white pines are important forest or ornamental trees. Please help to keep it out of the nursery trade and to eliminate it entirely within the State.

The public is entitled to receive only healthy stock and the nation is entitled to your aid in protecting our forests from blister rust. Sanitary production is the basis of staple trade in prepared foods and the same principle applies to the nursery trade in currents and white pines. The nursery trade is the ultimate loser when customers are sold unhealthy stock.

It will pay you to grow white pines which you can guarantee as free from



blister rust. The State authorities, cooperating with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, will help you do this.

Bear in mind that the way to get less quarantine is to grow five-leafed pines under standard conditions of sanitation that assure production of stock free from blister rust. This practice is of direct benefit to nurserymen and warrants your active interest and cooperation.

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